

REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated that the inventions identified in groups I and II do not relate to a single technical concept. The argument provided is that, based on the disclosure of US2002/0182729 and Kobayashi et al., a person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine PACAP signaling inhibitors and IL-11 into a pharmaceutical composition for use in promoting the growth of neuronal tissue since each component of the composition is taught separately for the same purpose. For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully disagrees.

US2002/0182729 disclosed that PACAP and its receptor system play a role in the proliferation of neuronal precursor cells. Kobayashi et al. disclose that IL-11 is able to promote neuronal differentiation of immortalized murine embryonic hippocampal progenitor cell lines. Applicants emphasize that, contrary to what the Examiner has stated, Kobayashi et al. do not refer to ‘nerve growth’ but to ‘neuronal differentiation’. Cell proliferation and cell differentiation are two entirely different processes. The Examiner’s statement that the person of skill would thus combine a PACAP inhibitor and IL-11 for use in promoting the growth of neuronal tissue is incorrect. There is no explicit or implicit disclosure in either of these documents, nor in the combination of these documents, of a pharmaceutical composition that includes these two compounds for promoting neuronal growth, let alone for the treatment and/or prevention of thrombocytopenia.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, the election requirement lacks basis and therefore should be withdrawn.

Transmitted herewith is payment of the fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a). If there are any charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

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